

Amend claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 26 and 30 as follows:

1. (Amended) A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a second polymeric material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

the composite having a non-circular cross-section perpendicular to the length and being produced by a single coextrusion process.

3. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first, second and third polymeric materials is a thermoplastic polymeric material.

4. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein each of the first, second and third polymeric materials is a thermoplastic polymeric material.

10. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein the core layer includes an effective amount of a filler.

12. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein the second polymeric material is a thermoplastic polymeric foam and includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler.

13. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein the second polymeric material is a solid thermoplastic polymeric material and includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler.

14. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein the core layer includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler, and the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials, and combinations thereof.

15. (Amended) The composite of claim 1 wherein the third polymeric material is polyvinylchloride.

18. (Amended) A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the composite component having a non-circular cross section perpendicular to the length and being produced by a single coextrusion process.

26. (Amended) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising

a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

each of said fence posts and rails having a length and a non-circular cross section perpendicular to the length, and each of said fence posts and rails being produced by a single coextrusion process.

30. (Amended) The system of claim 26 wherein the core layer is circumscribed by the outer layer along substantially the entire length of each of said fence posts and rails, and the inner layer is circumscribed by the core layer along substantially the entire length of each of said fence posts and rails.

✓
Add new claims 34 - 35 as follows:

34. (New claim) The component of claim 18 wherein the first polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof.

35. (New claim) The system of claim 26 wherein the first polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof.

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed and amended in light of the Examiner's communication mailed June 19, 2001.

Applicant hereby affirms that election was made, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-31. Claims 32 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims at a later date, for